

heel-pads found in the nestling Green Woodpecker; these are also known to be present in the Wryneck and the Barbet (*Cyanops*).

By a printer's error Col. Stonham's name was accidentally omitted from the last printed list of our Members, but he was a M.B.O.U. till his death, which deprives us not only of an enthusiastic fellow-ornithologist, but also of a brilliant surgeon.

XVIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Bonhote on Vigour.

[Vigour and Heredity. By J. Lewis Bonhote, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S. Pp. 1-276, with coloured and uncoloured plates and diagrams in text. London (West, Newman & Co.), 1915. 8vo.]

The study of the principles which underlie the inheritance of characters is the only road along which we are likely to make much headway in the elucidation of the many outstanding problems which are for ever confronting the zoologist of today. The laws, for instance, which govern the evolution of geographic species or subspecies; the problem of many very closely allied species inhabiting the same localities, living under the same conditions, and yet differing slightly and constantly without the intermingling of characters; the ready adaptability of some species, the immutability of others; the fertility of some hybrids, the infertility of others. These and a host of other kindred problems which will readily suggest themselves are, as Mr. Bonhote implies in his recent book on "Vigour and Heredity," not likely to be solved except as the result of much patient investigation, in the experimental breeder's pen, in the gardens of the horticultural scientist, or in the laboratory of the physiologist. If the assiduous collection and description of daily increasing hosts of specific or subspecific entities, necessary as that colossal task has been, has not advanced us very far towards the solution

of problems which lie at the very root of the secrets of evolution, we are not likely to get much further by still more assiduous collecting. The time has therefore arrived when it behoves us to make use of the vast mass of data collected; the time has come when the more comprehensive student of zoology must take thought and marshal the facts gleaned by himself and others in the hope of probing the grand secrets of nature.

As one more effort in this laudable direction we welcome Mr. Bonhote's volume, the object of which is to expound a theory which, while recognising the partial truths of Mendel's and Galton's theories of inheritance and the part, within its limits, played by Natural Selection, seeks to reinforce such theories and to clear them up where they fail.

Mr. Bonhote's medicine is a theory of Vigour, and by vigour he means "activity of nutrition and function" or "rate of metabolism."

The first five chapters of the book are taken up in the enunciation of the author's ideas on vigour and its effect on the coloration and sex of mammals and birds. Then come five chapters devoted to experimental results, while finally we have six chapters dealing with the evolution of sex, the psychology of reproduction, and the consideration of various hypotheses concerned in the inheritance of characters. Whether Mr. Bonhote attains the object which he had in view in setting forth his theory we prefer to leave to the judgment of those who read his book, which we confidently recommend as affording much food for thought in many interesting directions, whether we altogether agree with his theory or not.

The dominant idea which Mr. Bonhote puts forward is somewhat heterodox and is comprised in the thesis that environment, using the term in its wider sense, affects the physiological status of the parent and may have some influence on the characters of the offspring, the vigour of the parent being reflected in the vigour of the germinal cells and hence in the vigour and character of the inherited determinants. Mr. Bonhote, in fact, seems to partially, if not actually, accept the fact of the inheritance of acquired

characters, as may be gathered from his arguments (on page 7) that "fluctuating variations" brought about by environment are due to differences of vigour. Vigour, he says, affects the offspring and we thus get superimposed on the mendelian characters an *heredity brought about by environment* (italics ours).

Ornithologists can hardly fail to be interested in the many illustrations given by Mr. Bonhote in which he strives to show that temperature, humidity and food-supply influence vigour and through vigour coloration. In his discussions on the subject of coloration, however, Mr. Bonhote appears to us to hardly do more than touch on the fringe of the subject, for he draws no distinction between coloration or mere depth of tones or shades and colour-pattern. Differences in colour-pattern cannot, we conceive, be caused by either temperature, humidity, food-supply, or any amount of vigour.

In our belief there are "environmental or physiological species" and "germinal species"—the last perhaps the only true species. Mr. Bonhote does not appear in his book to distinguish sufficiently between the two. All his arguments seem to us to apply to the former category. To our mind the most interesting chapter in the book is that on "The Evolution of Sex."

Chapman on new Colombian Birds.

[Diagnoses of apparently new Colombian Birds.—IV. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. New York, xxxiv. 1915, pp. 635-662.]

The already large collections of birds from the northern parts of South America in the American Museum have recently been further enriched by a visit of the collectors, Messrs. Miller and Boyle, to the parts of the province of Antioquia hitherto not explored by naturalists. In the present paper a number of new forms collected by them as well as by others are diagnosed.

Only one new species is described—*Crypturus kerriæ*. Twenty-four new subspecies (belonging to the genera *Crypturus*, *Tachytiorchis*, *Herpetotheres*, *Aulocorhynchus*,

Picumnus, *Conopophaga*, *Microbates*, *Xiphorhynchus*, *Siptornis*, *Automolus*, *Manacus*, *Phyllomyias*, *Habrura*, *Microcerculus*, *Polioptila*, *Sporophila*, *Catamenia*, *Phrygilus*, *Cyanerpes*, *Iridosornis*, *Cacicus*, *Amblycercus*, *Molothrus*) are characterised.

Dewar on Indian Birds.

[A Bird Calendar for northern India. By Douglas Dewar. Pp. viii + 211. London (Thacker), 1916. 8vo., 6s.]

In "A Bird Calendar for northern India" Mr. Dewar attempts to epitomize for the general reader the interesting notes recorded by Hume, Blanford and others on the nidification and migration of Indian birds. He has succeeded in giving a very fair idea of the movements of the more common birds in the extreme north and north-west of India, and the book may also be of some use to beginners in the art of egg-collecting.

It is perhaps unfair to expect ornithological accuracy in a little work of this scope, but the inaccuracies are so numerous and some so glaring that they cannot be passed over in silence. Thus Mr. Dewar writes of the Sarus Crane building a *floating* nest, and adds: "a favourite place is some low-lying field where the water is too deep to admit of the growing of rice." Again, he speaks of Iora's eggs as being of a "salmon hue" (p. 72), whereas the normal tint is grey and the exception salmon, and on the very next page he describes the Tailor-birds' eggs as "white spotted with red," quite ignoring the well-known fact that the eggs may be white, pink or blue in ground-colour and either speckled, spotted or dotted with any shade of red or brown. Where, too, shall we find the "yellow and sable" female Minivets to which the author refers (p. 51); we were under the impression that the females, unlike the males, had no black on their plumage beyond a little on their tails. Again, we should hardly have expected the author of "The making of Species" to fall into the primitive error of writing about subspecies interbreeding (p. 47). Surely the castigator of Darwin and Huxley himself knows that geographical races

or subspecies are themselves always more or less intermediate in form in the areas which are intermediate to the central habitats of the individual races.

On the whole this little work will not add to the author's reputation either as an observer in the field or as a recorder of his own and other peoples' observations.

Grinnell on Californian Birds.

[A Distributional List of the Birds of California. By Joseph Grinnell. Cooper Ornithological Club, Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 11, pp. 1-217. Hollywood, Cal., 1915. 8vo.]

The State of California, on the Pacific Coast of North America, is, after Texas, the largest in the Union, and occupies an area one and three-quarters that of Great Britain. The first list of the birds of the State was drawn up by Dr. James G. Cooper, and published as a contribution to Crouse's 'Natural Wealth of California' in 1868. Dr. Cooper's name is preserved in that of the Club, by which the present list is published; moreover, this is the third list prepared by the present author and published by the Club. The first, published in 1902, contained the names of 491 species; the second, in 1912, 530; the present one 541. The nomenclature and classification of the A. O. U. Check-list is, with some unimportant exceptions, adhered to throughout, and to each species listed is given an account of its status, so far as it is known, within the State, with some bibliographical indications. A carefully prepared coloured map of the Life-zones, and a smaller one of the faunal districts, completes this carefully-prepared volume, which will doubtless prove invaluable to our ornithological brethren of the Cooper Club.

Mottram on Sexual Dimorphism among Birds.

[The Distribution of Secondary Sexual Characters amongst Birds, with relation to their Liability to the Attack of Enemies. By J. C. Mottram, M.B. (Lond.). Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1915, pp. 666-678.]

Mr. Mottram finds that marked sexual dimorphism among birds is met with chiefly in those groups which are most liable

to the attack of enemies, and that among birds which do not appear to be specially so liable, sexual dimorphism is rarely, if ever, present. He divides the bird-families of the world into five groups, according to what he believes to be their relative vulnerability to enemies, as follows:—terrestrial, arboreal, aerial, aquatic, and oceanic. The first of these groups is the most vulnerable, the oceanic the least, and Mr. Mottram finds that the proportion of birds exhibiting sexual dimorphism is far the greatest in the first group, where at least 38 per cent. of the families show this trait more or less, while among the oceanic group there is practically no sexual dimorphism.

There are a number of other tables given with a view to prove this thesis, but the author does not attempt to give any reason for this correlation between sexual dimorphism and vulnerability, nor are we satisfied that it is possible to divide birds into classes according to this last characteristic. We hardly know sufficiently well the habits of birds to estimate the amount of their vulnerability, and, unless we can make sure of this foundation, it appears to us that the whole of the argument fails.

Van Oort's recent papers.

[Resultaten van het ringonderzoek van het Rijks Museum te Leiden. Door Dr. E. D. van Oort. *Ardea*, Leiden, 1915, pp. 119–126.

Een voor Nederlandsche fauna nieuwe stormvogelsoort, *Puffinus gravis* (O'Reilly). Door Dr. E. D. van Oort. *Ardea*, Leiden, 1915, pp. 130–1.

On a new Bird-of-Paradise from Central New Guinea, *Falcinellus meyeri albicans*. By Dr. E. D. van Oort. *Zoologische Mededeelingen*, i. 1915, p. 228.]

In the first of these papers Dr. van Oort gives a list of birds which had been ringed in Holland and were recovered during the year 1915. The list is not a long one, and there are no very remarkable recoveries. Of three Lapwings, one was reported from Fez, another from southern Spain, and two Black-headed Gulls, ringed respectively in June 1911 and 1913 in Holland, were killed in February 1915 in Portugal.

The second paper adds a new bird to the avifauna of the Netherlands. An example of the Greater Shearwater was found dead on the beach at Noordwijk in November last and sent to the Leyden Museum. This species, though not infrequently occurring on our coasts, has never before been obtained on Dutch shores.

In the third paper a new subspecies (*Falcinellus meyeri albicans*) is described. It was obtained by the third expedition to Mt. Wilhelmina in the Snow Mountains of New Guinea, in 1913, and differs slightly (in having white flanks) from the typical form described by Finsch from south-east New Guinea.

Richmond on Generic Names.

[Notes on several preoccupied Generic Names—Aves. By Chas. W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxviii. 1915, p. 180. Notes on the Generic Name *Bolborhynchus* Bonaparte. Id. *ibid.* p. 183.]

Stenopsis Cassin 1851 (Caprimulgidæ) is preoccupied by *Stenopsis* Rafinesque 1815 (Coleoptera), and is renamed *Thermochalcis*. *Oreomyias* Berlepsch 1907 (Tyrannidæ) is preoccupied by *Oreomyias* Reichenow 1902 (Muscicapidæ), and is renamed *Oreotriccus*. *Oreospiza* Ridgway 1896 (Fringillidæ) is preoccupied by *Oreospiza* Keitel 1857 (Fringillidæ), and is renamed *Oberholseria*. *Lamprotes* Swainson 1837 (Tangaridæ) is preoccupied by *Lamprotes* "R. L." 1817 (Lepidoptera), and is renamed *Compsothraupis*. *Odontorhynchus* Pelzeln 1868 (Troglyodytidæ) is preoccupied by *Odontorynchus* Leach 1830 (Crustacea), and is renamed *Odontochilus*.

In the second paper it is pointed out that the genus *Bolborhynchus* Bonaparte, generally considered a *nomen nudum*, is not so, as it was further characterized in a reprint of the original paper published in 'Comptes Rendus,' xlv. 1857, as was often the habit of Bonaparte. Several changes are consequently necessary, and a new genus, *Amoropsittaca*, is proposed for the Parrot, *Arara aymara*, of d'Orbigny.

Roberts on a new South African Bird.

[A new Siskin from South Africa. By Austin Roberts. Ann. Transvaal Mus., Suppl. to vol. v. no. 3, ? January 1916.]

Mr. Roberts describes as new *Spinus symonsi*, allied to *S. tottus* of the Cape Provinces. The type and other examples were obtained in the Sanqabetu valley of Basutoland.

We must protest against the issue of fly-leaves containing descriptions of new species and labelled as supplements to the regularly issued numbers of journals, without pagination and with a date by no means clearly indicated. Such fly-leaves are very apt to get lost and to be forgotten when the volumes of such journals are bound up.

Shufeldt on a Fossil Bird.

[A Critical Study of the Fossil Bird *Gallinuloides wyomingensis* Eastman. By R. W. Shufeldt. Journ. of Geology, Chicago, xxiii. 1915, pp. 619-634.]

The fossil, of which Dr. Shufeldt here gives a critical study, was obtained in the Green River Shales of Middle Eocene age, near the town of Fossil in Wyoming, and was described by Mr. Charles B. Eastman in 1900. It is now preserved in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Shufeldt has recently had an opportunity of studying this interesting specimen, and has come to the conclusion that it has no Ralline affinities, as was suggested by Dr. Eastman, but is a true Gallinaceous bird, probably closely allied to *Bonasa*, *Canachites*, and *Lagopus*. As the name given to this fossil by Eastman is very misleading, Shufeldt proposes, "should the Canons of Zoological Nomenclature admit of it," to change the name to *Palaeobonasa*. This proceeding is, however, undoubtedly in direct opposition to the "Canons of Zoological Nomenclature," and cannot be permitted. A photograph of the original slab and a drawing of a careful restoration add much to the value of this paper.

Shufeldt on the Cranes and Rails.

[Comparative Osteology of certain Rails and Cranes, and the Systematic Positions of the Super-suborders Gruiformes and Ralliformes. By R. W. Shufeldt. Anat. Record, Philadelphia, ix. 1915, pp. 731-750.]

After a short review of the classificatory arrangements proposed by various authors, from Merrem in 1813 to Gadow at the present time, in regard to the Cranes and Rails, Dr. Shufeldt proceeds to examine some of the various forms, such as *Crex*, *Rallus*, *Fulica*, and *Grus*; but on turning to read his conclusions, we find from a correction-slip inserted at the beginning of the paper, that, through some mistake by an accidental exchange of MSS. pages, those given here do not represent his present views, which are to be found in a previous paper on the relationship of *Aramus*, published in the August number of the same journal. As we have not seen this earlier paper, we are unable to give Dr. Shufeldt's final ideas on this point.

Bird Notes.

[Bird Notes, the Journal of the Foreign Bird Club. Edited by Wesley T. Page. Vol. vi. 12 nos., Jan.-Dec., 1915.]

It is certainly a remarkable fact that the enthusiasm of the votaries of aviculture in this country is able to support in a flourishing condition two monthly journals; nor do the number of the articles or the size of the numbers appear to have suffered any diminution through the war. In the matter of coloured plates, however, there seems to be some economy. The present volume contains two only, one by Goodchild of *Munia igneotincta*, and another of the Brown-backed Indian Robin *Thamnobia cambaiensis*.

There are a number of articles on methods of aviculture, plans of aviaries, and other practical matters, especially in a series by the editor, "Visits to Members' Aviaries and Bird-rooms," and also a good many notices of the breeding of rare species in captivity, in several cases for the first time. Mr. R. Suggit writes on *Ortalis vetula* and *Spermophila*

grisea, Mr. W. Shore Baily on *Pyromelana taha* and *Penthetria ardens*, and Dr. L. Lovell-Keays on *Zosterops virens* and *Panurus biarmicus*. The last-named also continues his story of his journey through California, which seems to have been somewhat severely commented on by a critic in the 'Condor.'

Other articles of interest are by the Marquis of Tavistock on his attempts at aviculture without the restraints of caging or the cutting of wings; while among Indian correspondents Major Perreau continues his Bird-notes from Baklot in the Punjab, and Mr. Whistler on the Birds of the Jhelum District in India.

The Condor.

[The Condor. A Magazine of Western Ornithology. Vol. xvii. for 1915, 6 nos.]

'The Condor' is the organ of the Cooper Ornithological Club which, divided into two sections, meets monthly at Berkeley near San Francisco in the north of the State of California and at Los Angeles in the south, and the papers in the magazine have in most cases been read at the Club meetings. As would naturally be the case the greater number of the articles are of local interest, but their value is nearly always enhanced by the numerous photographs with which they are embellished.

Of the faunal articles we have Mr. Harold Heath on the Birds of the Forrester Islands on the south-eastern boundary line of Alaska; though so far north, these islands are well clothed with forest and have an abundant population of land-birds, as they are on the line of the north and south migration. They have recently been proclaimed a reservation, and the exploration was carried out under the joint auspices of the U.S. Fish Commission and the National Association of the Audubon Societies. Other faunal articles are by Mr. A. P. Smith on the Birds of the Boston Mountains of Arkansas; Mr. M. F. French on the Birds of Sacaton, Arizona; Mr. A. A. Saunders on those of Flathead Lake,

Montana; and Mr. E. R. Warren on his observations in South Park, Colorado.

The nests and eggs of *Cypseloides niger borealis* are described by Mr. W. L. Dawson. Although far from being an uncommon species in western America, there has always been a great amount of mystery about the nesting habits of the Black Swift, and very few authentic eggs are known in collections. A Mr. A. G. Vrooman of Santa Cruz in southern California announced some years ago (*Auk*, 1901, p. 394) that he had taken a single egg of this species on the damp bare earth of a sea-cliff. This seemed so improbable a place for a swift to nest in, that little credit was given to the story. Recently Mr. Dawson accompanied Mr. Vrooman on an expedition along the sea-cliffs near Santa Cruz, and was rewarded by finding the nest and eggs and photographing them *in situ*. Another interesting nest, the finding of which is described, is that of the White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*), which breeds at an elevation of 11,500 feet in Colorado. Mr. Bradbury found the nest in a swampy place and the eggs lying in two inches of snow water!

Of new forms, Mr. J. Mailliard describes a new subspecies of Redwinged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus aciculatus*) from Kern County, California; it appears to have a very restricted distribution, but Mr. Mailliard is convinced of its distinctness.

Mr. L. B. Bishop proposes to distinguish a new race of the Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi*; it is resident in south-west British Columbia, near the coast, and sometimes migrates south to California. It was first obtained by Capt. Allan Brooks, who is now with the Canadians fighting in France; and was named after him.

In the asphalte beds at Rancho La Brea there have been found over a hundred thousand bird-bones, now in the collection of the Los Angeles Museum, and Mr. L. H. Miller has discovered among them a curious tarso-metatarsus which he states must have belonged to a "walking eagle." He names the bird *Morphnus daggetti* sp. nov., and believes that it may have been related to the South African Secretary-bird.

Among articles dealing with migration problems is an interesting one by Mr. W. W. Cooke on the migration of the Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*). This species breeds along the northern Arctic coast of North America and south to Great Slave Lake. In winter it is unknown anywhere in the Western Hemisphere, but has been reported from the China and Japanese seas as well as along the coasts of Norway. On migration the species is unknown in the interior of Alaska, so that birds in spring must first go north to Bering Straits, then north-east to Point Barrow where it has not been seen earlier than May 15, then east and then south to Great Slave Lake, a most roundabout route. This seems impossible, and Mr. Wells believes that the problem of how the Yellow-billed Loon reaches Great Slave Lake is the most incomprehensible problem of migration on the North American Continent.

There are many other articles in this magazine we should like to allude to, but we must forbear and can only recommend our readers to subscribe for themselves.

Irish Naturalist.

[The Irish Naturalist. Vol. xxiv. 12 nos., Jan.-Dec., 1915.]

Whether it is owing to the war or to the sad loss Irish ornithology has recently suffered in the deaths of Messrs. Ussher and Barrington, the number of papers of interest to bird-lovers in the 'Irish Naturalist' seems to have fallen off a good deal of late years. In the present volume there is one paper of importance—that by Mr. R. F. Scharff on the Irish names of birds. The list is arranged in dictionary order and the names are printed in Irish characters with an approximate English form for the benefit of those unlearned in the Celtic. The November number is devoted to a long and appreciative obituary notice of Mr. Barrington, prefaced by a good portrait. His loss is assuredly a heavy blow to Irish zoology.

Prof. C. J. Patten contributes a short article on the Eider Ducks recently observed at Inishtrahull off the north coast

of Donegal, and also some notes on other rare birds taken or seen at various Irish lights, including the Icterine Warbler at Tuskar, only once before recorded from Ireland.

Scottish Naturalist.

[The Scottish Naturalist. Nos. 37-48, Jan.-Dec., 1915. Edinburgh.]

Most of the ornithological articles in the 'Scottish Naturalist' for the past year are, as usual, from the pen of the indefatigable editor, Mr. Eagle Clarke. A short note in the January number records the capture of the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus aquaticus*) in Fair Isle on the previous October 23. It has never before been obtained in Scotland and only twice in Ireland, and is of course a rare straggler in England. Another note introduces a new "British Bird," *Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis*, the Eastern Short-toed Lark. This form was also taken on Fair Isle in November 1907, but remained unidentified until recently. It does not seem to have been hitherto noticed in Europe and is a native of Central Asia from Transcaspia to Tibet. A review of the migratory birds observed at Fair Isle, from the notes of Mr. Jerome Wilson the "observer" and of the Duchess of Bedford, shows that 126 species visited the Isle on migration during the year, and that 225 species had been altogether recorded from this tiny spot. In addition to the two birds already mentioned, *Serinus serinus* and *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* were added to the list in 1914.

Mr. Clarke's other contribution deals with the St. Kilda Wren (*Troglodytes t. hirtensis*), which he has ample opportunity of observing in its native island. He completes the description of some of the plumages and gives us an account of its haunts, song, and food.

The "Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1914" by the Misses Baxter and Rentoul, usually separately published, is printed in the July number of the 'Scottish Naturalist.' It is as usual a most careful piece of work and summarizes all the additions made to our knowledge of the Scottish

Avifauna during the year, under the headings of new occurrences, extensions of breeding range, ringing results, food and other habits, and more particularly migrational movements, which occupies more than half the report.

From Mr. R. Clyne, the lighthouse-keeper at the Butt of Lewis at the northern end of the Outer Hebrides, we have a report of birds observed. The spot is obviously an important one for witnessing the coming and going of birds which traverse the Outer Hebrides in spring and autumn. Unfortunately the ground is very barren and quite destitute of cover, so that few birds rest there.

It is interesting to hear of a new breeding place of the Gannet. A few are reported by Mr. J. S. Tulloch to have settled on the Noup of Noss, Bressay. This is a small island lying to the east of Lerwick in the Shetland Islands. Except for the well-known Bass Rock, all the British nesting places of the Gannet are in western waters. This is therefore a second site on the North Sea.

Reports from several observers of the deaths of numbers of sea-birds from oil floating on the seas appear in the September number. The birds become coated with oil and are unable to swim or fly and so perish miserably. This has been noticed on the coast of Fife, and is doubtless due to the activities of torpedo destroyers and submarines in those waters.

The South Australian Ornithologist.

[The South Australian Ornithologist. Vol. i. 1914 & vol. ii. 1915.]

The first number of this new journal was noticed in 'The Ibis,' 1914, p. 526, and since then we have received seven more numbers, completing two volumes, and we may here briefly summarize their contents. One of the features is a general article in each number on some particular South Australian bird, giving a description and a full account of the distribution and habits. This is done for such birds as *Dacelo gigas whitei* and for *Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*.

There are scattered through the numbers several local bird-lists with field-notes, such as those of Kallioota by Mr. A. M. Morgan, of Rosworthy College by Mr. H. E. Lapper, and of Stoneyfell by Mr. R. Crompton, all places in South Australia; while Mr. E. Asby writes on the birds of Mount Dandenong in Victoria, where the Lyre-bird can still be seen, and Mr. G. M. Mathews contributes a series of notes made by the late Capt. Bowyer-Bower in the Cairns district of Queensland in 1884-5. Capt. Bowyer-Bower's collections are now partly in the British Museum and partly in the possession of Mr. Mathews.

Mr. Mathews also sends some descriptions of new forms (vol. i. no. 2, p. 12). We must protest against his description of a new genus, *Macgillivrayornis*, for a new species, *M. claudi*. There is absolutely no clue to enable the reader to find out what family this new genus should be referred to; from the description it might be anything. The other forms described by him, all from northern Queensland, are *Tyto galei*, *Ægithina temporalis macgillivrayi*, and *Neochmia phaëton albiventer*.

Mr. S. A. White has some interesting reminiscences of his father, Mr. Samuel White—a pioneer, explorer, and early collector—who came to South Australia in 1842. He was a friend and correspondent of Gould's and sent him many new and rare birds for which Gould perhaps hardly gave him sufficient credit. Mr. White also sends a description of a new species, *Acanthiza marianæ*, from the dry north-western part of South Australia, and an account of his examination of the pellets of an Australian Barn-Owl (*Flammea flammea delicatula*), from the examination of which it appears that this Owl lives largely on the Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

Yearbook of the Dutch Bird Club.

[Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen. Jaarbericht, no. 5. Deventer (Kluwer), 1915.]

In addition to the reports of the meetings, which apparently take place five or six times a year, this Yearbook

contains a report by the President, Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg, on the ornithological occurrences in Holland from October 1914 to September 1915. Perhaps the most interesting of these is the taking of a British Robin ringed in Berkshire on May 13, 1912, in South Holland in November 1914; this subspecies does not appear to have been previously recorded outside the British Isles. In another article Baron Snouckaert gives us some additions and corrections to his 'Avifauna Neerlandica,' published in 1908.

The nesting habits and eggs of the forms of Marsh- and Willow-Tits occurring in Holland and north-west Germany are discussed by Mr. H. C. Siebers. He terms *Parus palustris longirostris* the Matkop, and *Parus atricapillus rhenanus* the Glasskop. His remarks are illustrated with two photographs and a plan of the nest of the Willow-Tit bored in the trunk of a tree.

Other papers in the Yearbook are by Mr. G. J. van Oordt containing field-notes on birds observed in the higher mountain ranges of Switzerland, and by Mr. P. A. Hens on the birds of Valkenburg in the Dutch Province of South Limburg.

Zoological Record.

[Aves in Zoological Record, vol. li. for 1914, pp. 1-77. Printed for the Zoological Society of London and sold at their house in Regent's Park, London, N.W., January 1916. Price 6s.]

The Zoological Record has hitherto formed part of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature issued each year by the Royal Society jointly with the Zoological Society. Early in 1915 the Royal Society decided to suspend for the present the issue of any further volumes of the International Catalogue. The Zoological Society, however, realizing what difficulties would beset the worker in zoology if the Record were suspended or delayed, determined to continue this invaluable publication on their own responsibility, and the volume for the year 1914 is now complete.

The portion dealing with Ornithology has been compiled by Mr. W. L. Sclater and contains the titles of 1088 publications against 1576 in that of the previous year. Of these 284 are from the British Islands as compared with 370 of the previous year, 227 from the United States against 368, 197 from Germany against 309, and 57 from France against 130, showing how the war has interfered with scientific work. There have been also many other difficulties to contend with owing to the interrupted communications with neutral as well as enemy countries, and it has been impossible to examine some of the foreign periodicals.

A copy of the Zoological Record should be in the library of every working zoologist, and if more workers would subscribe for the volume or at least for the part in which they are specially interested, it would be a great help to the Zoological Society, who have assumed very considerable financial responsibilities in order to secure the continuity of this most invaluable Zoological Bibliography.

The complete volume or the parts can be obtained from the Zoological Society direct or from the publishers, Messrs. Harrison & Sons, St. Martin's Lane, London.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- MURPHY, R. C. Notes on American Subantarctic Cormorants. (Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H. xxxv. New York, 1916.)
- SHUFELDT, R. W. Owls, as regarded by the Scientist, the Agriculturist, and the Sportsman. (Wilson Bull. No. 92, Oberlin, 1915.)
- WITHERBY, H. F. The "British Birds" Marking Scheme. ('British Birds,' ix. London, 1916.)
- Agricultural Magazine. (Third Series, Vol. vii. Nos. 3-5. London, 1916.)
- Bird Notes. (New Series, Vol. vii. Nos. 1-3. Ashbourne, 1916.)
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